



# Health & Commerce Weekly Pandemic Webinar Series

December 23, 2020

This information in this presentation is current as of December 1, 2020. This is an ongoing situation and information is subject to change. The information contained is not comprehensive but meant to give a basic overview, for further information on anything below visit the resources listed, contact ACCD, or contact the Vermont Department of Health.



## **\$120B – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE**

- Enhanced UI benefits (PEUC) of \$300/week until March 14, 2021.
- Extends PUA an additional 11 weeks
- Federal financing of work share programs (partial unemployment) through March 14, 2021.

## **\$166B – DIRECT PAYMENTS**

- An additional round of “Economic Impact Payments” (stimulus). \$600 for individuals making up to \$75,000, and \$1,200 for couples making up to \$150,000. \$600 for children/dependents.

## **\$27B – TAX PROVISIONS**

- Extension of the Employee Retention Tax Credit: Provides that employers who receive Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans may still qualify for the ERTC with respect to wages that are not paid for with forgiven loan proceeds;
- The bill specifies that forgiven Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans will not be included in taxable income. It also clarifies that deductions are allowed for expenses paid with proceeds of a forgiven PPP loan, effective as of the date of enactment of the CARES Act and applicable to subsequent PPP loans. This same tax treatment also applies to EIDL grants, grants for shuttered venues, and certain other loan repayment assistance.

# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF PACKAGE

### **\$325B – SMALL BUSINESS RELIEF**

- Provides a second PPP forgivable loan for the hardest-hit small businesses and nonprofits with 300 or fewer employees and that can demonstrate a loss of 25% of gross receipts in any quarter during 2020 when compared to the same quarter in 2019;
- Creates set-asides for very small businesses with 10 or fewer employees and for small businesses located in distressed areas;
- Allows for small businesses in the restaurant and hospitality industries to receive larger awards of 3.5 times average total monthly payroll, rather than 2.5 times;
- Adds PPE expenses, costs associated with outdoor dining, and supplier costs as eligible and forgivable expenses;

### **\$20B – EIDL Grant Program**

- This bill includes \$20 billion for EIDL Advance grants. Small businesses and nonprofits in low income communities are eligible to receive \$10,000 grants.

### **\$15B – VENUE OPERATORS**

- The bill provides \$15 billion for SBA grants up to \$10 million to live venues, independent movie theaters, and cultural institutions to address the economic effects of the pandemic. Grants can be used to cover expenses such as payroll costs, rent, utilities, and personal protective equipment.

# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF PACKAGE

### **\$5.5B SBA DEBT RELIEF & LENDING PROGRAMS**

- \$3.5B to resume debt relief payments of principal and interest on small business loans
- \$2B to enhance SBA's core programs, by making them more affordable for small businesses

### **\$45B TRANSPORTATION RELIEF**

Provides relief funding for airline and airline contractors, state transportation agencies, Amtrak, private motorcoaches, school buses, and ferries.

### **\$25B – EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

- Creates new program to provide emergency rental assistance to Americans.
- Extends rental eviction moratorium through January 31, 2021.

### **\$7B – BROADBAND**

- \$3.2B in emergency funds for low-income families to access broadband.
- \$300M rural broadband program

ALSO: Vaccines, testing & tracing, health care provider support, education funding, FEMA, child care support,

# COVID-19 EMERGENCY RELIEF PACKAGE





# **COVID-19 Symptoms and Quarantine Requirements**

---

**COVID-19 Response – Primary Prevention Team**

**Vermont Department of Health**

**December 22, 2020**

# Primary Prevention Team's Role and Responsibilities

## The Vermont Department of Health's Primary Prevention Team:

- Works with groups, facilities, agencies, and other entities to help them prepare prior to cases being identified.
- Creates guidance documents, presentations, and reference materials for specific populations.
- Answers questions about COVID-19 prevention.
- Reviews and provides feedback on documents, plans, and protocols.

# What should you do if you have symptoms?

- If you or a staff member develop symptoms at work, stay away from other people and go home immediately. If you develop symptoms at home, stay home and call in to inform your supervisor.
- Call your primary care provider to determine if a test is recommended. If you do not have a primary care provider, you can call 2-1-1 to get a referral to testing.
- Stay home and away from others.

# STEPS TO TAKE IF SOMEONE TESTS POSITIVE

- **If you learn of a positive case at your business**, contact the Health Department's Infectious Disease Epidemiology team. Call 802-863-7240 (Mon - Fri 7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m, choose Option 3, outside those hours, choose Option 7).
- In addition, **if you learn of a positive case at your business or an employee alleges that they contracted COVID-19 at your business, you must notify your workers' compensation insurer and request that it file a first report of injury.**

*The Department of Financial Regulation has ruled that this filing will NOT impact your WC experience rating). The Legislature has created presumptions of compensability, and defenses to those presumptions, for work-related cases of COVID-19.*

- More information on this may be found here:  
[https://labor.vermont.gov/sites/labor/files/doc\\_library/memo%20on%20passage%20of%20S342%28Act%20150%29.pdf](https://labor.vermont.gov/sites/labor/files/doc_library/memo%20on%20passage%20of%20S342%28Act%20150%29.pdf)
- If you have questions, contact the Vermont Department of Labor Workers' Compensation & Safety Division at 802-828-2286 or email the Workers' Compensation Division at: [LABOR.WCComp@vermont.gov](mailto:LABOR.WCComp@vermont.gov)



# Return-to-Work after COVID-19 positive test

People who test positive for COVID-19 will be advised to stay home from work and other activities until:

- fever has resolved for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications, and other symptoms (like cough or shortness of breath) have improved

**– AND –**

- at least 10 days have passed since symptoms first appeared.

For people who had a positive test and were asymptomatic, at least 10 days must pass since they tested positive.

# Return-to-work after a COVID-19 positive test

- Proof of a negative test for COVID-19 should not be required to return to work if someone has been diagnosed with COVID-19 and has completed isolation requirements.
  - Re-testing is not recommended within 90 days of a positive test result
    - Studies show that someone may continue to test positive long after they have recovered and are no longer contagious. Once someone meets the [criteria for ending isolation](#), there is no longer a risk of them spreading the virus to others
  - The Health Department cannot issue a letter saying the person has completed isolation
- Employers can [keep employees safe](#) by following [prevention guidance](#) in their workplace.

# Who needs to quarantine?

Quarantine is for people who do not have symptoms and who:

- Were in close contact with someone sick with COVID-19
  - Close contact is being within 6 feet of someone sick with COVID-19 for 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period
- Are Vermonters who traveled out of state
- Are people with who are visiting Vermont
- Have socialized with another household from out-of-state

*Testing and quarantine is recommended for people who have gathered with another household in state.*

# Who does not need to quarantine?

- People who are not close contacts
- People who must travel for [essential purposes](#), including school or work

- **Contacts of Contacts**

If someone was not in direct contact with a person with confirmed COVID-19, they do not need to quarantine. This includes:

- If you live with or care for someone who is quarantining because they were exposed to someone with COVID-19

EXAMPLES OF CLOSE CONTACTS	EXAMPLES OF NOT CLOSE CONTACTS
You live in the same home	You were their cashier at the grocery store
You are intimate partners	You are a pharmacist who gave the person medication
You rode in the same car while the person was infectious	You were in front of the person in line at the store
You had dinner together while the person was infectious	You're a coworker who briefly walked by to ask a question

NOTE: If someone is not required to quarantine for one purpose, it does not exempt them from quarantine requirements if they fit another category.

# Hannah Hauser and Jen Pistole

---

**VDH COVID-19 Response Primary Prevention Team**  
**[AHS.VDHCovid19PreventionResponse@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHCovid19PreventionResponse@vermont.gov)**





**Q: My employee is quarantining. Do I have to pay them?**

**A: Yes.**

1. If your business is subject to the **Emergency Paid Sick Time Act**, then you should pay the **two weeks of paid sick time first** for the quarantine period.
2. If the employee has already exhausted their Emergency Paid Sick Time benefits, or their employer is not covered by the law, (see FAQ above), then the employee would potentially be entitled to unemployment benefits. This is a fact-specific determination. *For example, an employee who knowingly traveled out of state for a non-essential reason is essentially making themselves unavailable for work during the quarantine period, which may be disqualifying.*

**Q: What options do employers have to limit non-essential travel or multi-household gathering by employees?**

**A: As a general rule, an employer has little control over what an employee does on their personal time. But employers can set expectations for their employees.**

- An employer can request that leave or vacation time be requested in advance.
- An employer can also require employees to disclose when they have traveled out of state such that they are subject to a quarantine order.
- If an employer makes it clear to an employee that they are required to be at work Monday morning, for example, and the employee travels out of state over the weekend and subjects themselves to quarantine, that may be an appropriate subject for discipline.
- Like all other workplace policies, expectations regarding attendance and travel should be administered and enforced uniformly.

# Department of Labor & Federal Cares Act FAQ's

# COVID-19 RESOURCE CENTER FOR BUSINESSES

<https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19>

- Mask Mandate: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/masks>
- Cross State Travel Map & Information: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/restart/cross-state-travel>
- Sector Guidance: <https://accd.vermont.gov/content/stay-home-stay-safe-sector-specific-guidance>
- Work Safe Guidance: <https://accd.vermont.gov/news/update-new-work-safe-additions-stay-home-stay-safe-order>
- Work Safe FAQs for Businesses: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business/stay-home-stay-safe-business-faqs>
- Unemployment Information: <https://accd.vermont.gov/covid-19/business#unemployment>

# ONLINE RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

- [Resources for Business](#) (ACCD)
- [Stay Home Stay Safe FAQs for Businesses](#) (ACCD)
- [Businesses and Employees](#) (VDH)
- [Close Contacts & Contact Tracing](#) (VDH)
- [COVID-19 Frequently Asked Questions](#) (VDH)
- [General Business Frequently Asked Questions](#) (CDC)
- [When to Quarantine](#) (CDC)
- [COVID-19 Employer Information for Office Buildings](#) (CDC)
- [Ventilation and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#) (EPA)
- [Disinfectants for Coronavirus](#) (COVID-19)
- [Prevent COVID-19](#) (VDH)

# DOCUMENT RESOURCES FOR BUSINESSES

- [What to do when your co-worker has COVID-19](#) (VDH)
- [What do I do if my employee tests positive for COVID-19?](#) (VDH)
- [What to do if you are a close contact of someone who is diagnosed with COVID-19?](#) (VDH)
- [What is isolation, quarantine and self-observation?](#) (VDH)
- [Waiting for COVID-19 test results?](#) (VDH)

# DEFINITIONS

## Close Contact

Close contact means being within 6 feet, for a total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period, of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 during their infectious period.

## **Testing Positive for COVID-19**

Diagnosis is based on a positive laboratory test. There are many other diseases that can have symptoms like COVID-19, but only people who receive a positive laboratory test are considered to have COVID-19

## Contact Tracing

When a person tests positive for COVID-19, staff from the Health Department reaches out to them to see who they were in close contact with while they were infectious. Contact tracing is used to provide education, support and guidance to people who are diagnosed with COVID-19. It is also used to identify people who have been in close contact with them, so they can take steps to stop the disease from spreading to others.

## Infectious Period

This is the time during which someone infected with COVID-19 has the potential to spread it to others. The infectious period starts two days (48 hours) before any symptoms begin, or for people who did not have symptoms, two days before they got tested and continues until they recover.

# DEFINITIONS

## Isolation

Isolation is when people with COVID-19 stay home, and away from other people, [until they have recovered](#), to prevent further spread. Learn about the timeline for people with COVID-19 ([with symptoms](#) and [without symptoms](#)) from being exposed to being released from isolation.

## Quarantine

[Quarantine](#) is for:

- people who were in [close contact](#) with someone sick with COVID-19 (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after you were last in contact with them)
- Vermonters who travel out of state (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after you return to Vermont)
- people with no symptoms who are visiting Vermont (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after you arrive in Vermont)
- people who have gathered with another household (day 1 of your quarantine starts the day after the gathering)





## CONTACT THE VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Sign up for the Vermont Department of Health [Weekly COVID-19 Update](#)

PHONE: 802-863-7240

Monday - Friday 8:15 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Saturdays & Sundays 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

*\*Outside those hours, leave a message and your call will be returned.*

For general questions (not health-related):

CALL: 2-1-1

CALL: 1-866-652-4636.

EMAIL: [AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov](mailto:AHS.VDHPublicCommunication@vermont.gov).

